

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for promoting whole body health in human and other animal subjects having or at risk of developing a periodontal infection-induced systemic disease, comprising topically administering to ~~said subjects'~~ an oral cavity of a subject in need thereof, a composition comprising an amount of an antimicrobial agent effective to ~~promote whole body health~~ control bacterial infection in the oral cavity and inhibit oral bacteria-mediated systemic disease and a pharmaceutically acceptable oral carrier, wherein said antimicrobial is selected from the group consisting of stannous ion agent; triclosan; triclosan monophosphate; chlorhexidine; alexidine; hexetidine; sanguinarine; benzalkonium chloride; salicylanilide; domiphen bromide; cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC); tetradecylpyridinium chloride (TPC); N-tetradecyl-4-ethylpyridinium chloride (TDEPC); octenidine; delmopinol; octapinol; nisin; zinc ion agent; copper ion agent; essential oils; furanones; bacteriocins; salts thereof; and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of Claim 5 wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a mouthrinse, toothpaste, tooth gel, tooth powder, non-abrasive gel, chewing gum, mouth spray, lozenge, and a pet chew product.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A method for promoting whole body health in human and other animal subjects according to Claim 5 wherein the composition topically administered to the subjects' oral cavity further comprises an additional therapeutic agent which is a H2 antagonist.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for promoting whole body health in human and other animal subjects having or at risk of developing a periodontal infection-induced systemic disease, comprising topically administering to ~~said subjects'~~ an oral cavity of a subject in need thereof, a composition comprising:

a. an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of stannous ion agent, triclosan, triclosan monophosphate, chlorhexidine, domiphen bromide;

cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC), zinc ion agent, copper ion agent, essential oils, and mixtures thereof;

- b. an additional therapeutic agent; and
- c. a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carrier,

wherein the amount of the antimicrobial agent and the therapeutic agent is effective to promote whole body health control bacterial infection in the oral cavity and inhibit oral bacteria-mediated systemic disease.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to Claim 8 wherein said therapeutic agent is a H2 antagonist selected from cimetidine, ranitidine, famotidine, roxatidine, nizatidine, mifentidine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for promoting whole body health in human and other animal subjects having or at risk of developing a periodontal infection-induced systemic disease, comprising topically administering to ~~said subjects'~~ an oral cavity of a subject in need thereof a composition comprising an amount of an antimicrobial agent effective to promote whole body health control bacterial infection in the oral cavity and inhibit oral bacteria-mediated systemic disease in the absence of an H2 antagonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable oral carrier, wherein said antimicrobial is selected from the group consisting of stannous ion agent; triclosan; triclosan monophosphate; chlorhexidine; alexidine; hexetidine; sanguinarine; benzalkonium chloride; salicylanilide; domiphen bromide; cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC); tetradecylpyridinium chloride (TPC); N-tetradecyl-4-ethylpyridinium chloride (TDEPC); octenidine; delmopinol; octapinol; nisin; zinc ion agent; copper ion agent; essential oils; furanones; bacteriocins; salts thereof; and mixtures thereof, ~~with the proviso that the composition may not include an H2 antagonist.~~

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of Claim 10 wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a mouthrinse, toothpaste, tooth gel, tooth powder, non-abrasive gel, chewing gum, mouth spray, lozenge, and a pet chew product.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for promoting whole body health in human and other animal subjects, comprising topically administering to said subjects' oral cavity a composition comprising

- a. an amount of an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of stannous ion agent, triclosan, triclosan monophosphate, chlorhexidine, domiphen bromide;

cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC), zinc ion agent, copper ion agent, essential oils, and mixtures thereof;

b. an effective amount of an additional therapeutic agent ~~with the proviso that the additional therapeutic agent may not include~~; and

c. a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical, oral carrier,
wherein the amount of the antimicrobial agent ~~and the therapeutic agent~~ is effective to ~~promote whole body health~~ control bacterial infection in the oral cavity and inhibit oral bacteria-mediated systemic disease in the absence of an H2 antagonist.

Claim 13 (new): The method of Claim 5, wherein inhibition of the bacteria-mediated systemic disease is indicated by a change in one or more health indices or biomarkers of whole body health.

Claim 14 (new): The method of Claim 13, wherein at least one of the health indices is reduction in the incidence of dysregulation in blood/serum levels of blood lipids or C-reactive proteins.

Claim 15 (new): The method of Claim 14, wherein the blood lipid is blood or serum cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL, HDL, VLDL, Apolipoprotein B, or Apolipoprotein A-1.

Claim 16 (new): The method of Claim 13, wherein at least one of the health indices or biomarkers is reduction in alterations in circulating hematocrit, hemoglobin, white blood cell count and/or platelet counts.

Claim 17 (new): The method of Claim 13, wherein at least one of the health indices or biomarkers is reduction in incidence of dysregulation of glucose metabolism.

Claim 18 (new): The method of Claim 13, wherein at least one of the health indices or biomarkers is reduction in blood levels of oral bacteria and/or its components thereof.